

Frances E. Jensen, a professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School. "It becomes more and more evident that it won't be just the doctors, researchers, and scientists pushing the field forward. There's an active role for parents and patients. They tell us when the drugs aren't working."

The future holds promise for unlocking the mysteries of what some experts now call Epilepsy Spectrum Disorder. "Basic neuroscience, electrophysiological studies, gene studies, and new brain-imaging technologies are generating a huge body of knowledge," Dr. Jensen says.

Lauren Axelrod, now 27, is cute and petite, with short black hair and her mother's pale eyes. She speaks slowly, with evident impairment but a strong Chicago accent. "Things would be better for me if I wouldn't have seizures," she says. "They make me have problems with reading and math. They make me hard with everything."

By 2000, the savagery and relentlessness of Lauren's seizures seemed unstoppable. "I thought we were about to lose her," Susan says. "Her doctor said, 'I don't know what else we can do.'" Then, through CURE, Susan learned of a new anti-convulsant drug called Keppra and obtained a sample. "The first day we started Lauren on the medication," Susan says, "her seizures subsided. It's been almost nine years, and she hasn't had a seizure since. This drug won't work for everyone, but it has been a magic bullet for Lauren. She is blooming."

Susan and David see their daughter regaining some lost ground: social intuition, emotional responses, humor. "It's like little areas of her brain are waking up," Susan says. "She never has a harsh word for anyone, though she did think the Presidential campaign went on a little too long. The Thanksgiving before last, she asked David, 'When is this running-for-President thing going to be finished?'"

CURE is run by parents. Susan has worked for more than a decade without pay, pushing back at the monster robbing Lauren of a normal life. "Nothing can match the anguish of the mom of a chronically ill child," David says, "but Susan turned that anguish into action. She's devoted her life to saving other kids and families from the pain Lauren and our family have known. What she's done is amazing."

"Complete freedom from seizures—without side effects—is what we want," Susan says. "It's too late for us, so we committed ourselves to the hope that we can protect future generations from having their lives defined and devastated by this disorder."●

HONORING GROVER GUNDRILLING INC.

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, this week marks the Consortium of Entrepreneurship Education's 3rd Annual National Entrepreneurship Week, a time to celebrate the history of American entrepreneurship and to highlight new and upcoming entrepreneurs and small business owners. As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am all the more aware of the countless contributions entrepreneurs have made to the success of this Nation. In that vein, I rise today to recognize Grover Gundrilling Inc., a small business in my home State of Maine that brings a very unique and critical skill to the Northeast.

A second generation family-owned small business, Grover Gundrilling, or

GGI, specializes in precision deephole drilling. With nearly 60 skilled employees, GGI has developed the capability to drill smooth, finished holes ranging from .045 of an inch to 2 inches in diameter, from 1 ounce to 6,000 pounds, at a depth of 1 inch to 10 feet in every material from Teflon to mold steels to exotic high-temperature alloys. Founded in 1983 by Rupert and Suzanne Grover, Grover Gundrilling now has three facilities in Oxford County, including a 40,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in the town of Norway. And as former teachers, the Grovers like to hire employees with no background as machinists, but with strong math and science skills, to train them in their own particular fashion.

Given its remarkable growth, considerable capacity, and small company size, GGI prides itself on being "small enough to listen and large enough to handle production." Grover Gundrilling has become a critical supplier for industries as diverse as aerospace engineering and nuclear power, and its components are used in products as varied as medical devices and semiconductors.

To care for its staff, Grover Gundrilling generously provides its employees with full family medical coverage, flexible scheduling, and the company encourages its workers to pursue higher learning by offering educational reimbursement. And the company offers a multitude of incentives to stellar employees, including family snowmobiling trips and tickets to a variety of area events.

GGI is also dedicated to supporting its community in a variety of ways. The Grovers donate significant time and energy to the Oxford County Fair, a fun-filled annual tradition for the families of Oxford County and western Maine. They also created the Boxberry School, a nonprofit independent elementary school for K through sixth graders that combines multiage classes, individual attention, and an integrated art curriculum with the Maine Learning Results standards. The Grovers also volunteer in various capacities with the 4-H Club, Androscoggin Home Health, the Oxford Food Pantry, and Aspire Higher, and Suzanne Grover serves on the board of directors of the Growth Council.

Carving out a niche in the machine tool world, Grover Gundrilling has excelled as a leader in precision deephole drilling. It is entrepreneurs like Suzanne and Rupert Grover who are going to revitalize our economy, and I am proud to call them constituents. I wish Rupert and Suzanne Grover, as well as Garth, their son, and GGI's president, their daughter Jessica, and everyone at Grover Gundrilling Inc. a successful year.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

A message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 80. An act to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to treat nonhuman primates as prohibited wildlife species under that Act, to make corrections in the provisions relating to captive wildlife offenses under that Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 637. An act to authorize the Secretary, in cooperation with the City of San Juan Capistrano, California, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of an advanced water treatment plant facility and recycled water system, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the bill (S. 234) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2105 East Cook Street in Springfield, Illinois, as the "Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. Post Office Building", without amendment.

At 4:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1105. An act making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 637. An act to authorize the Secretary, in cooperation with the City of San Juan Capistrano, California, to participate in the design, planning, and construction of an advanced water treatment plant facility and recycled water system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1105. An act making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 478. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret-ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

S. 482. A bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.